draining one; and, indeed, might not the one be associated with the other, like the impulsion and distribution of arterial blood and the suction and withdrawal of the venous mainly by the one common central agency of the heart? Drainage is, no doubt, of vast importance to the soil, not only clearing it of sour and stagnant moisture, but wonderfully mitigating the coldness, or rather positively and obviously increasing the warmth, both of soil and air; but what an immense power of multiplying produce would be realised by the *addition* of a concurrent tubular system of arteries for the distribution of liquid manure when wanted, and of pure water in drought! Such, it appears, is the system, in its full development, of which our agricultural engineers and our active Central Board of Health are laying the foundations; and we certainly think that a pamphlet such as this ought to be not only in the hands of every local Board of Health, but of every farmer and every market-gardener in the country, as one of the most important contributions towards an end which, together with the application of steam or other power to ploughing, digging, harrowing, &c., is likely one day to realise that era of which we some time since spoke, in which the science and the practice of agriculture will be as vastly developed as have the science and the practice of *other* MANUFACTURES in the memory of the present generation.

Another small contribution towards the same great end, we may here briefly notice, namely, a clearly written pamphlet on the drainage of Coventry, with proposals for the establishment of a self-sustaining system of sewage removal, by Mr. T. A. Yarrow, C.E., Engineer to the Irish Amelioration Society. Mr. Yarrow, too, advises the adoption of Prince Albert's filtering tanks, together with peat-charcoal for the solidification and deodorization of the sewage.

Miscellanea.

THE BUILDERS' BALL.—We hope our readers will keep in mind that the ball, in aid of the Builders' Benevolent Institution, is to come off on the 19th February. The list of stewards is not yet what we wish it were; but no doubt it will be greatly enlarged now that the time is so close at hand. The position of a steward is much more honorary than expensive, and we trust that, for the sake of so excellent a charity, even those who would have rather had some other mode of benefiting it than the one found to be expedient in the present instance, will not object to contribute the means at least, though they cannot enjoy the opportunity.

ENGINEER FOR METROPOLITAN SEWERS COMMISSION.—It has been suggested, and, as it seems to us, with good reason, that the resignation of Mr. F. Foster, as engineer-in-chief to the Court of Sewers, affords an opportunity for rewarding that individual among the competitors of 1849, whose design approaches most nearly that which has been sanctioned by the court, or is, otherwise, the best.

COTTAGE COMPETITIONS.—The report of the committee of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland on cottage competitions during 1851, states "that in the county of Berwick no fewer than ten parishes had competed with great spirit and benefit to the cottagers. Many proprietors had built excellent cottages, or improved the old ones, so that no part of Scotland is now superior to this district in cottage accommodation. Fresh districts should annually be added to the list, and the benefit resulting from competition be felt throughout the whole country." While the committee lament the little interest generally taken in cottage competitions, they notice the zeal of many proprietors in building and improving cottages. Mr. Home, of Wedderburn, had built thirty-one cottages, and improved ten existing cottages. Lord Kinnaird had built twenty and improved five, and Sir David Kinlock had built eight. Judging from the plans received, all these cottages appeared to be much superior to the majority of such buildings in general use.

SALES OF HOUSES, &c.—At Messrs. Farebrother, Clark, and Lye's sales, at Garraway's, on Wednesday in last week, the important freehold ground-rents issuing out of the Lyceum Theatre, two dwelling-houses, Nos. 1 and 2, Wellington-street North, and three houses in Exeter-street, Strand, amounting together to 70*l.* per annum, and of the estimated annual value of 3,000*l.*, were sold for 15,750*l.* Two tithe-free farms, situate in the parish of Langford, near to Farringdon, Berks, held under leases for lives, containing 178 acres, and let at 320*l.* per annum, were sold for 3,100*l.* A leasehold private residence, No. 23 A, Bruton-street, Berkeley-square, held for a term of 49 years, at a ground-rent of 55*l.* per annum, sold for 2,030*l.* An improved rent of 30*l.* per annum, for thirteen years, issuing out of a residence situate at Kennington-common, sold for 200*l.*; and a freehold house and shop, No. 112, Fleet-street, let on lease at 112*l.* per annum, was knocked down for 2,050*l.*—*Morning Herald.*

WYLD'S GREAT GLOBE.—Sir,—My retirement, twelve months ago, as architect of the building for the great globe in Leicester-square, having had an injurious implication on my professional character, which I have had no opportunity of explaining, will you allow me now, in my own justification, to state, that the plans, &c., showing the mode in which I proposed constructing the building, and on which Mr. Myers's contract at 1,888*l.* were founded, had been carefully examined by the official referees, and pronounced satisfactory by them, and that Mr. Wyld had received the same favourable opinion from one of the principal builders in London. It is due to Mr. Wyld that I should further state, that after giving my evidence in the late trial of *Abrahams* v. *Wyld* (as Mr. Abrahams' witness), Mr. Wyld made me an apology in court for the manner in which I had been treated in this business.—EDWARD WELCH.

OMNIBUS PROPRIETORS AND SERVANTS.—It is stated, says the *Morning Herald*, that some disagreeable differences are likely to arise between the omnibus proprietors and their men, in consequence of the movement which the latter have made to obtain cessation from labour on every alternate Sunday. The drivers and conductors have recently formed a benevolent institution, for the purpose of providing against sickness and other unavoidable misfortunes. This society has taken part in the above movement, and it is said that several of the members have, in consequence, received notice of discharge from their employment. If this determination be acted upon, the probability is that some serious "opposition," in the shape of competing omnibuses, will be started by the men. The poor omnibus drivers and conductors are much to be pitied. *They* have, indeed, too much reason, we think, to complain of "over-time." No "galley-slave" was ever so "lashed to the oar" as they are to their duties. There ought to be two distinct sets of men for each omnibus, were it possible to make such an arrangement, consistently with the interests of the men as well as of the masters. The public interests themselves demand it. Such an arrangement would do more than any thing else to put an end to fretting and chafing with omnibus men. All they themselves ask, however, is liberty every alternate Sunday, but even that necessitates a double set of men, at least for the time required.

THE TIMBER TRADE.—It having been represented to the Customs authorities, by the importers of wood goods at the port of London, that difficulties are experienced with respect to planks, deals, battens, &c., entered by tale upon a computation of their cubic content, calculated according to the scale annexed to the Act 14th and 15th Vict. cap. 62, in consequence of the length of the pieces in the scale being particularised by feet, without an allowance of any fractional part thereof; and also, in consequence of the importers not being in possession of the exact dimensions; the authorities have issued a general order to their officers at all the ports throughout the kingdom, directing certain regulations in the matter to be in future observed.

PROPOSED GREAT EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK.—The committee on the petition asking that Edward Riddle may be permitted to erect on Madison-square, New York, a building of iron and glass, 600 feet long and 200 wide, for an industrial exhibition of all nations, *have reported favourably to the City Board of Aldermen*, and a resolution, granting him the sole occupation of the square for two years, has been passed. The occupiers of the land are to inclose it with an iron fence, to cost not less than 6,000 dollars, and they all agree that the admission price to said enclosure shall at no time exceed fifty cents.

RAILWAY COMPANIES AND LUGGAGE.—At the Marylebone County Court lately, a lady brought an action against the Great Western Railway Company for 35*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* being the value of some luggage lost at the station. It appeared by the statement of an omnibus conductor, named Long, who was brought up on a *habeas corpus* expressly to state the manner in which the luggage was stolen, that it was customary, on the arrival of trains, for the porter to bring out the passengers' loggage, and that any omnibus conductor might get hold of it and drive off. The company contended that they were not liable, as it was expressly stated in their bye-laws that every first-class passenger would be allowed 112 lbs. and every second-class passenger 56 lbs. free of charge, but that the company would not be responsible for luggage unless booked and paid for. The plaintiff in this case had not complied with this bye-law. In support of the plaintiff's case Mr. Goodman stated that, in order to test the "bye-law," he had applied to the station clerk to book his luggage, and this had been refused. Mr. Amos (the judge) said it would be a most *extraordinary thing if the company could enforce such a law as this, made by themselves*, and compel passengers to book their luggage to ensure the responsibility of the company. A verdict was at once given in favour of the plaintiff for the whole amount, 35*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—The system adopted in Prussia of running the gutta percha'ed wires underground has proved, as we long since predicted, so complete a failure, that the directors of the Royal Prussian Telegraph have resolved to substitute the usual mode of fixing them on posts. The gutta percha was constantly eaten away by vermin. The wires, however, might have been protected by tubes. The directors have ordered tenders to be taken in the English markets for a considerable supply of wire for their telegraphs.——The various states of Switzerland have subscribed 225,912*f.* as a loan, without interest, for the construction of electric telegraphs. The sum required is 500,000*f.*

LECTURES TO WORKING MEN.—We are glad to hear that a series of lectures illustrative of the collections in the Museum of Practical Geology, is about to be given for behoof of artizans, who will be admitted by free tickets, for which early application ought to be made, as the number of admissions will necessarily be limited. The first lecture will be delivered on Monday, the 9th of February, by Dr. Lyon Playfair, on glass and its composition, and the series will be continued by other lectures on each of five successive Mondays, at eight o'clock in the evening.

IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS.—A society called The Windsor Royal Society for Encouraging and Providing better Domestic Accommodation for the Industrial Classes, has been set on foot at a meeting held in the Townhall, Windsor, on Thursday in last week. The society is to have a capital of 6,000*l.* in 600 shares of 10*l.* each, and will be under the patronage of her Majesty and Prince Albert. The Prince intends, as he cannot participate in any profits, to purchase shares to the amount of 200*l.* and present them to the society.

ST. PAUL'S, COVENT-GARDEN.—Efforts are being made to obtain for this church of historical interest funds for some stained glass windows. There will surely be little difficulty in effecting this in such a parish as St. Paul's, Covent-garden.

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